

MRS. GRUNDY'S GATHERINGS.

DESCRIPTION OF ENGRAVING.

No. 1—Is a ball dress of pink tulle over silk; the tulle is looped up in festoons with clusters of roses. The corsage is cut low at the neck with a heart-shaped trimming in front, a sharp boddice, and a narrow basquine, rounding away at the sides. The sleeves are very full, made with one puff and a deep ruffle. Headdress, moss roses.

No. 2—Is a dress of heavy purple silk with horizontal stripes of black ascending half-way up the skirt. The mantilla is made of silk to match, and trimmed with deep black lace. White drawn-bonnet, trimmed with lilac ribbon.

LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

A splendid fête champêtre, recently given at the ancestral seat of one of our noblest aristocratic families, draws together a crowd of gay and fashionable company. The dresses of the ladies on this occasion were remarkable for elegance and novelty; we will describe a few of them for the information of those of our fair readers who may be preparing a similar style of costume. The noble hostess wore a dress of splendidly worked India muslin. It consisted of a double jupe, or rather a jupe and tunic, both of equal length; that is to say, sufficiently long to trail a little on the ground behind. The front breadth of the under jupe was entirely covered with the most exquisite India needlework; and the upper jupe was open in front, so as to show this needlework. The open sides of the upper jupe were trimmed with a double bouillonne of muslin, edged with narrow Valenciennes lace, and within these bouillonnés were runnings of bright Islay green ribbon. The corsage, which was half-high and open in front, was trimmed at the top by bouillonnés with ribbon insertion. The ends of the sleeve were finished in a similar style, with the addition of deep hanging ruffles of Valenciennes. The head-dress was of peculiarly beautiful and novel description. It consisted of a cap, fitting almost closely to the head, and composed of feather trimmings of brilliant hues of green, formed of the plumage of foreign birds. This feather trimming was plaited, so as to form a sort of transparent net-work, and was intermingled with rows of narrow black blonde. Long lappets of the same floated over the back of the neck and shoulders.

Two young ladies—sisters—wore white muslin robes of a very elegant description. They

were striped muslin, and the skirts had seven tucks, each edged at the bottom with a row of narrow Valenciennes. These dresses were made low, and over the corsage was worn a sort of *fichu* or pelerine of muslin the same as the dresses. These pelerines were made high to the throat, and pointed in the front and at the back. Round the waist was a basquine, edged with ~~the~~ full ruche of narrow Valenciennes lace. These two young ladies wore bonnets of white crenoline, intersected by rows of a sort of trellis-work formed of white blonde, combined with narrow pink and blue ribbon. It may be observed that pink and blue—two colours formerly inadmissible in combination—are now frequently blended together; fashion having, for the present at least, revoked the decree which formerly prohibited their union. The young ladies, whose dresses have just been described, wore white worked muslin mantellets, trimmed with frills edged with Valenciennes, and ornamented with bows of blue and pink ribbon.

A young Spanish lady, one of the guests at this gay morning party was dressed in a style to her very becoming; though worn by another lady, it might have been liable to the charge of eccentricity. The robe was composed of the richest Irish poplin, with broad alternating stripes of pink and black. The corsage was tight to the figure, open in front, and edged with black lace. The sleeves demi-short, with ruffles of black lace; the same lace forming the basquine at the waist. On her head, this Spanish brunette wore her national mantilla; the graceful folds were gathered just above the left ear, and confined by a large moss-rose.

TO WASH A BLACK LACE VEIL.

Mix bullock's gall with sufficient hot water to make it as warm as you can bear your hand in. Then pass the veil through it. It must be squeezed, and not rubbed. It will be well to perfume the gall with a little musk. Next rinse the veil through two cold waters, tinging the last with indigo. Then dry it. Have ready in a pan some stiffening made by pouring boiling water on a very small piece of glue. Put the veil into it, squeeze it out, stretch it, and clap it. Afterwards pin it out to dry on a linen cloth, making it very straight and even, and taking care to open and pin the edge very nicely. When dry, iron it on the wrong side, having laid a linen cloth over the ironing-blanket. Any article of black lace may be washed in this way.